

South King County Projects Update

Edition 65, November 29, 2005

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South King County traffic closures this week

Interstate 5

- Drivers should expect closures of the left lane of southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320th Street Monday through Thursday from 7 p.m. each night to 1 p.m. each following afternoon for HOV lane paving and median work. We will open the lane during the afternoon commute each day.

State Route 161

- Expect daily shoulder closures on Highway 161 between S. 360th and Milton Way Monday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. while crews work to widen the highway.

WSDOT thanks drivers for Thanksgiving travel cooperation

Thanksgiving travelers did themselves a favor by making good decisions on where and when to travel over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. WSDOT maintenance crews, construction workers, traffic engineers and communications workers want to give thanks to all who cooperated in this effort.

Four elements worked together to smooth travel over the Cascades.

- **Drivers left earlier or later.** Compared to 2004, there was a 50% drop in travelers at Snoqualmie Pass during the typical high volume period on Wednesday afternoon and evening.
- **Drivers shifted to White Pass (89% increase) and Stevens Pass (52% increase).** Traffic at Snoqualmie Pass decreased by 58,000 vehicles (33%).
- **Drivers avoided a trip across the Cascades.** This year, on Tuesday through Sunday of Thanksgiving week, 17% fewer travelers crossed the Cascades over Snoqualmie, White and Stevens passes than in 2004.
- **The weather cooperated,** for the most part, averting major traffic impacts.

Wilder Construction, WSDOT contractor for stabilization of the slide site, continues work at the slide zone. Crews have been working dawn-to-dusk, four stories above the highway, to remove loose rock. The delicate and precarious nature of the work, along with cold weather conditions, has made steady progress an ongoing challenge. A second large crane was brought to the work zone midday Friday to provide enhanced capability to the contractor. We continue to provide [rockslide repair updates](#).

You're invited to I-405 project open house next week

WSDOT is planning a project on I-405 between Renton and Bellevue to enhance safety, relieve congestion, increase travel speeds during rush hours and facilitate freight movement through the corridor. We examined over 20 environmental issues in the Bellevue and Renton areas, including air quality, cultural resources, noise and wetlands. Visit our public open house to learn what we found in these studies and to speak with project planners and engineers.

- [I-405 Renton to Bellevue Project](#) Open House
 - Thursday, Dec. 8
 - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Renton Housing Authority (2900 NE 10th Street, Renton)

Sign up to receive [e-mail updates](#) on I-405 projects.

Highway advisory radio updates

Tune your radio to 1520 AM to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail [Laura Johnson](#).